

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2001 - 125

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
FOR THE CENTRAL COAST REGION
REMOVING A NITRATE OBJECTIVE FOR THE SAN LORENZO RIVER

WHEREAS:

1. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Regional Board) revised its Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) on April 14, 1995 and the amendments to that plan took effect on November 2, 1995.
2. On June 2, 2000, the Central Coast Regional Board adopted Resolution 00-001 (attached) amending the Basin Plan to remove a numeric nitrate objective of 0.25 mg/L for the San Lorenzo River.
2. The Central Coast Regional Board staff followed appropriate procedures to satisfy the environmental documentation requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (PL 92-500 and PL 95-217) and other State laws and regulations. The Central Coast Regional Board finds adoption of these amendments will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
3. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) finds that the Basin Plan amendment to remove the numeric nitrate objective for the San Lorenzo River is in conformance with Water Code Section 13240 which specifies that Regional Water Quality Control Boards shall periodically review and may revise Basin Plans.
4. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by the SWRCB and until the regulatory provisions are approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and provisions related to surface water standards are approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The SWRCB:

1. Approves the amendment to the Central Coast Regional Board Basin Plan to remove the numeric nitrate objective for the San Lorenzo River.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director or designee to transmit the amendment and administrative record for this action to OAL and USEPA for approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on November 15, 2001.

/s/
Maureen Marché
Clerk to the Board

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION
San Luis Obispo, California

RESOLUTION NO.00-001

**ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN AND
REQUESTING APPROVAL FROM THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL
BOARD TO**

REMOVE THE NITRATE OBJECTIVE FOR SAN LORENZO RIVER

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (Regional Board), adopted the Water Quality Control Plan, Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan), on March 14, 1975.

WHEREAS, the Regional Board periodically revises and amends the Basin Plan,

WHEREAS, the current nitrate objective for the San Lorenzo River is not reasonable. For example, the existing objective is below background concentrations,

WHEREAS, the Regional Board has determined the Basin Plan requires further revision and amendment,

WHEREAS, water quality will be protected by the narrative water quality objectives. Regional Board Resolution 95-04 also encourages the County to implement reduced nitrate discharge measures contained within the San Lorenzo Nitrate Management Plan, Phase II Final Report, February 1995, County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency, Environmental Health Service. Water quality will also be protected by the nitrate target contained within the draft San Lorenzo River nitrate TMDL once it is approved by the U.S. EPA,

WHEREAS, drafts of the proposed amendment have been prepared and distributed to interested persons and agencies for review and comment,

WHEREAS, Regional Board staff followed appropriate procedures to satisfy the environmental documentation requirement of the California Environmental Quality Act (PL 92-500 and PL 95-217). The Regional Board finds adoption of these amendments will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment,

WHEREAS, notice of public hearing was given by advertising in newspapers of general circulation within the Region,

AND WHEREAS, on June 2, 2000, in San Luis Obispo, California, the Regional Board held a public hearing and heard and considered all public testimony.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that based on the draft Basin Plan amendment. The environmental checklist, accompanying written documentation, and public comments received, the Regional Board finds that there is no substantial evidence in the record that adoption of the proposed Basin Plan amendment will have a significant adverse effect on the environment,

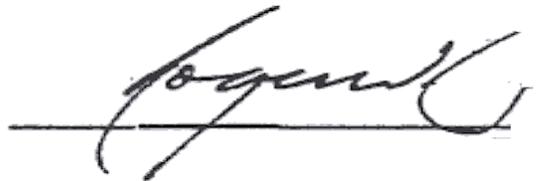
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the environmental document prepared by Regional Board staff pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21080.5 is hereby certified. Following approval of the revised Basin Plan by the State Board, the Executive Officer shall file a Notice of Decision with the State Clearinghouse,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that when appropriate, the Regional Board shall replace the nitrate objective with a TMDL nitrate target for San Lorenzo River or U.S. EPA nutrient criteria,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Basin Plan amendment shown on "Attachment A—Basin Plan Amendment" is approved. The amendment will not take effect until approved by the State Board, the Office of Administrative Law, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency,

AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that upon approval, the State Board is requested to transmit the amendment to the California Office of Administrative Law and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

I, ROGER W. BRIGGS, Executive Officer of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on June 2, 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Briggs", is written over a horizontal line.

June 2, 2000

Date

RESOLUTION NO. 00-001
ATTACHMENT A -- BASIN PLAN AMENDMENT

The following Basin Plan amendment is proposed. New language is shown in **bold** and deleted language is ~~stuck out~~.

1. Revise the September 8, 1998 Basin Plan, Chapter Three, page III-14 as follows:

~~A specific monthly mean objective for Nitrate (as NO₃) of 0.25 mg/l shall apply to both the upper and lower San Lorenzo River to protect beneficial uses from adverse biostimulatory effects. Specific biostimulant objectives for other surface waters will be added to this section in tabular form once they are determined from further studies.~~